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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## SRNS Education Outreach Helps Ensure Future Success of Area Students

*School systems within eight counties near SRS benefit from multiple education outreach programs, over 175,000 students and teachers reached since 2008*

AIKEN, S.C. – June 14, 2016 – The total impact the Department of Energy’s (DOE) primary contractor at the Savannah River Site (SRS), Savannah River Nuclear Solutions (SRNS), has had on the region’s education systems each year is immeasurable. During the past school year alone, hundreds of schools and more than 27,000 students and teachers were directly affected through SRNS education outreach programs and events.

Since SRNS became the management and operating contractor in 2008, more than 175,000 students and teachers throughout the eight counties near the Savannah River Site have benefitted from their dedicated efforts to help local students and assist area educators.

“Savannah River Nuclear Solutions’ involvement in our schools ranges from technical expertise as engineer mentors for robotics teams, individual support to innovative classroom teachers and leadership in educational programs and events,” said Dr. Sean Alford, Aiken County Public Schools Superintendent. “Our STEM programming is strong, in part, because of the philanthropic spirit of SRNS and their dedication to ensure our students’ future success.



*Over the 2015/2016 school year, more than 175,000 students throughout the eight counties near the Savannah River Site benefitted from education programs managed by Savannah River Nuclear Solutions. Above, SRNS engineer Missy Byrne works with middle school students during SRS Teach-Ins at Davidson Fine Arts, Augusta, Ga*

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"Many of the programs offered annually by SRNS are based on learning through competition. They include the CSRA Science Fair, DOE Savannah River Regional Science Bowl and the Future City Competition. Future City, for example, is a national program that teaches teamwork, creativity and a strong sense of individual responsibility as team members plan and work together to solve science and engineering problems while creating an innovative city of the future.

"Without a doubt, the life blood of any school system is the teachers," said Carol Johnson, SRNS President & CEO. "We continually look for ways to help them obtain a higher level of success. After all, investing in local students is also a potential investment in those who one day may be SRS employees."

SRNS annually offers a "mini grant" program to provide financial assistance to area teachers through corporate funding. This competitive program provides grants to CSRA public and private elementary and middle school teachers for innovative ideas. During this past school year, grants for more than 150 teachers, totaling \$75,000, were awarded. To date, more than \$500,000 has been contributed to support educators throughout the region through this source of monetary assistance.

"Our students and curriculum haven't changed over the years; however, as we look into the twenty-first century, what we're trying to prepare our kids for is a different workforce than what we had," said Kat Snyder, Director, Lower School, Mead Hall, Aiken, S.C. "So, what we want to do now is provide opportunities for cooperative learning, collaborative learning, creative thinking and problem solving, all of that. I think Mini Grants offer an incredible opportunity for our teachers."

For nearly a decade, children and young adults have benefited from SRNS education outreach programs whose primary goal is to stress the importance of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). These STEM-intensive initiatives include the Traveling Science Demonstration Program, Science & Technology Enrichment Program, Introduce a Girl to Engineering and various workshops, tours, lectures and demonstrations.

"I honestly don't know where the Jackson STEM Program would be without the backing of SRNS. Not only financially, but your engineers come in and help as well. I greatly look forward to working with SRNS in the future," said Kishni Neville, STEM Coordinator, Jackson Middle School.

One of the SRNS educational events that reach the most students each year is CSRA College Night. Last year, over 8,000 area high school students participated, requiring use of the entire floor space within the James Brown Arena in Augusta, Ga. More than 140 colleges and

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universities typically attend College Night, each manning an information booth. This event is managed by SRNS personnel with the help of many highly valued volunteers from several local companies.

Over the years, more than \$275,000 in scholarship funding has been offered to students attending CSRA College Night.

“We believe business, industry, government and the education community must work together as partners to improve the educational opportunities for all students in our region,” said Johnson. “SRNS is proactively striving to assist local educators in their efforts to help children and college students grow in knowledge while learning important life lessons.”

*Savannah River Nuclear Solutions is a Fluor-led company whose members are Fluor Federal Services, Newport News Nuclear and Honeywell, responsible for the management and operations of the Department of Energy's Savannah River Site, including the Savannah River National Laboratory, located near Aiken, South Carolina.*

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